level Committee headed by Chief Secretary is fully empowered to decide on all matters relating to operation of CRF, including execution of relief operations, norms and scale of assistance. With the constitution of CRF, it is the responsibility of the State Government concerned to meet all expenditure on relief operations in the wake of natural calamities.

The request of the State Government was considered in the light of existing scheme for financing the relief expenditure. A Central team visited the State between September 29 and October 2, 1993 to assess the situation. Based on the recommendations of the Central team and of an Inter-Ministrial Group, Government of India released the first quarterly instalment of Central share of CRF for the year 1994-95 amounting to Rs. 13.32 crore in advance in February, 1994.

(c) The item-wise allocations for relief operations including ex-gratia payments, out of the corpus of CRF, is made by the State Government concerned.

Starvation deaths of Tribals in Kerala

5052. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports about the starvation deaths of over forty (40) tribals in Noolpuzha Panchayat of Wayanad district of Kerala during December 1993, January, 1994 ;

(b) if so, whether any Central team was sent or independent investigations were otherwise caused by the Central Government to ascertain the facts or assess the situation in the area, if so, the details thereof and the findings thereof ; and

(c) whether reports of starvation deaths were also received from other parts of the country as well during the past one year, if so, the details thereof and the Central Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Accordng to information received from Government of Kerala, reports of starvation deaths among tribals in Noolpuzha Panchayat of Wayanad district were unfounded.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Product and Non-Product specific aggregate measurement of support on agricultural products

5053. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the product specific Aggregate Measurement of Support on 17 agricultural products and their value at applied administered prices ;

(b) what is the actual production of 17 crops and their eligible production which has been taken;

(c) what is the non-product specific aggregate measurement of support on fertilizers, electricity, agricultural machinery, insecticides, weedicides, diesel, lubricants etc. ;

(d) the items which bear negative non-product specific aggregate measurement of support and in what quantity and what are the details thereof ; and

(e) what measures Government will take to rectify this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The product specific and non-product specific aggregate measurement of support (AMS) of the base period 1986-88 was required to be calculated for the purposes of Uruguay round of negotiations. The requisite information in respect of the base period is contained in the schedule of commitments to the GATT, copy of which is available in the Parliament Library. This ministry has not made any calculation of AMS beyond the base period.

(d) The non-product aggregate measurement of support is not negative.

(e) Does not arise.